



MAYFLOWER

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Newsletter



The President's Message

With all opening seasons, I feel that this one is a really big one at GCFM this year. We saw many changes on the Board and many newcomers chairing a committee as well as new members joining GCFM committees. This is exciting.

Introducing new people to blend in with the seasoned is a healthy mix of building a solid foundation for the future of GCFM.

I am delighted to announce that we have a new Communications Secretary, Christina Nikitas, who just accepted this role in the past month. She is a member of the Burlington Garden Club.

Last issue we introduced Dania Matheos, Horticultural Chairperson. At the October BOD meeting, we actually found her out in the garden giving us a live Zoom explanation of seeds we can gather this time of year.

You'll be hearing from Mary Bandouveres, our GCFM Youth Contest Chairperson. She did send out a letter to the club presidents and members asking if you were interested in joining her committee.

Her email is: GCFMyouthcontests@gmail.com. I hope you may consider coming on board.

Connie Filosi has agreed to Chair Landscape Design Council and Chris Cotter is now Chair of the Gardening Consultants Council.

*FUN*damentals of Floral Design (Back to Basics) will be chaired in the western part of MA this year by Vana Nespor and Beate Bolen. We are happy to be able to offer it to this section of the state thanks to their efforts.

Membership at GCFM increased by 460 new members since last year. Congratulations to those clubs who have figured out how to attract and keep new members.



The "Path of Success" at NGC in St. Louis

I had the opportunity to visit NGCs Headquarters in St. Louis, MO this September for their Fall Conference and the ribbon cutting for the

Pathway to Success. Our MA paver has been engraved and embedded in the walkway. They did put the six New England states together as you walked along the path. There's plenty of room for pink pavers to be engraved by clubs who wish to have their club represented. You can read more about it [here](#).

The introduction of **IfThen** was approved at the conference. This program is essentially a record-keeping procedure for NGC Schools, intending to streamline this process of recording courses taken while also making student records readily available to view. This potential new development will extend database access to Schools Chairmen to update records and allow students to access and review their records.

The Rhode Island state president, Judy Gray, is hosting the New England Region Conference this year which will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. And to our delight, the National Garden Club, Inc. President, Brenda Moore, will be returning to New England to attend as well. Some may well remember that she attended the MA Region Conference in Plymouth last October. The dates are October 23-24. Everyone is welcome to attend. Click [here](#) for the application to attend. There is a \$10 late fee for registering after October 10th.

This is also the time of year when the Executive Board goes on the road. Each District Director

Continued on Page 3

Table of Contents

PAGE 3

President's Message Cont'd
Welcome Christina Nikitas

PAGES 4-8

Clubs at Work

PAGE 9-10

New England Fall Flower Show

PAGE 11

Topsfield Fair Flower Show

PAGE 12

Vana Nespor
Topsfield Fair Pictures

PAGE 13

Horticulture

PAGE 14

Environmental Awareness

PAGE 15

Her Shirley Farm

PAGE 16

Book Review
Note from the Editor

PAGES 17-19

2024 Clickable Speaker Ads

"This design stands above the crowd with its artistic use of color harmonies, components and form."

~ Judges' Comments

"HOT AND HUMID" CATEGORY:

A design with two units of unequal size that are joined by a prominent stretch component. The smaller unit should appear to be pulled away from the larger unit. Tension between the two objects is essential.

**Andrea Little's Award-Winning BEST OF SHOW Entry, "Hot and Humid" Category
The New England Fall Flower Show — See Page 9 for Full Article**

President's Message, cont'd

hosts a large meeting to include all of the Club Presidents and Treasurers in her district for them to meet us. It is a wonderful way for us to get to know a bit more about the culture of the district and also for the clubs to share a bit about themselves with one another. We look forward to these every year. We were fortunate to get early dates this year in September and October to complete visits to every district. Each meeting was different and very interesting. Kudos to the District Directors for being so creative.



GCFM's paver on the "Path of Success" at NGC in St. Louis



The "Path of Success" at NGC in St. Louis

Time to toot the horn about our upcoming GCFM Fundraiser "A Prelude to GCFM's 100th Anniversary" to be held on April 30, 2025 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Milford, MA. This will be a gala affair which you won't want to miss. Yes, the Federation is approaching its 100th Anniversary and this offering is just the beginning of bigger things to come. Featured Guest: Michael Derouin, AAF, AIFD, PFCI A second generation floral designer and floral educator.

With the upcoming holiday season approaching, now is the time to think of a unique gift for your mother, sister, aunt, friend and yourself by purchasing a ticket for them to attend. You can purchase them [here](#).

So the blood is pumping and circulation is moving throughout our organization and results are happening. All good and all positive. Everyone is cooperating and sharing, ideas are flowing in, creative juices are stirring and coming to the surface, and there is a new feeling of energy and hopefulness at GCFM. Things are getting done and there is a wonderful spirit of cooperation that is contagious. Please follow our [State Calendar for Events](#).

I will continue with my Monday Memos and if you miss one, you can always find them on the homepage of our website. <https://www.gcfm.org/monday-memo> We have so much going on at GCFM. I hope you are enjoying the offerings. You can look forward to a few upcoming webinars from Junior Gardening, a refresher on Awards and more Treasurer information among other lectures which will be offered for the winter months.



An international garden at NGC in St. Louis

Welcome, Christina Nikitas!

On Thursday, October 3, the GCFM Board of Directors welcomed Christina Nikitas as our new Communications Secretary. Christina is a retired career administrator; a Marketing /Communications and Media Relations professional in the technology industry and academia; and a published freelance photographer whose work was featured in publications including The Boston Globe.

Christina has long been active in charitable circles, and her volunteerism over the years—for which she has received awards—includes service for over 35 years as an ESL/ELL teacher; for over a decade as an advocate, caregiver and friend for individuals in respite care and the intellectually disabled; and in recent years, as a crew member for studio and on-location television productions. She is a graphic artist and her photography has appeared in various art exhibitions, both solo and juried.

Currently, Christina is engaged in community organizations' leadership – she produces and hosts a talk show on community cable television. In her spare time, she enjoys music, horticulture and the performing arts.

I am so proud of everyone on the Board and on the committees. It's been so much fun to work with everyone. And I appreciate all of the support I have been given as well. We all need to work together to keep the wheels turning. Many hands make for light work. As I head into the second quarter of my last term in office, I hope to visit as many clubs as I can, so please invite me. Please continue to send me your club newsletters. I thoroughly enjoy reading them.

Enjoy each day!

President Marjorie Dienhart



Did You Know the reds, oranges and yellows of tree leaves are always present – just hidden?

The green color typically associated with leaves comes from the pigment chlorophyll. During summer, trees supply much needed chlorophyll to their leaves in high quantities, overpowering their other colors and making their leaves appear bright green.

So when you see trees changing in the fall, they are really just revealing their true colors.

GARDEN CLUBS AT WORK



Boxford Village Garden Club

Members of the Boxford Village Garden Club manned a booth at the annual Boxford Apple Festival on September 22, 2024.



BVGC President Melanie Cullinane makes seedballs with children

A crew of flower arrangers created stunning bouquets from flowers picked from members' own gardens.

At the Conservation Table, another team made seed balls with children and educated passers by on native plants.

Brockton Garden Club

Claire Lineberry received the Unsung Hero Award at Brockton Garden Club's annual dinner on June 10, 2024. Lineberry is a longtime member of the Brockton Garden Club, a previous president and Civic and Beautification Chair. Her dedication and tireless commitment is known throughout the Club, Community and the Cranberry District.



Claire Lineberry receives award

Burlington Garden Club

Burlington Garden Club members and guests enjoyed "meeting" and learning about the iconic Eleanor Roosevelt and her contributions to the world war Victory Garden effort through an interactive program and slide presentation.



Burlington Garden Club members

Over the summer, the club studied and collected images of insects in their yards to judge the extent of insect loss in the town. Findings supported habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use, and light pollution. The report was presented to members by Co-President Jane Boivin. As part of Garden Therapy, member volunteers assisted Atria Longmeadow Place residents with creating beautiful arrangements to take back to their rooms.

Falmouth Garden Club

Falmouth's summer activities included both a successful plant sale and Hydrangea Festival thanks to the diligent efforts of many dedicated Falmouth Garden Club members. Judy Pooley received the Floribunda Award.

A whimsical fairy house was installed over the summer at the Highfield Hall and Gardens



Annemarie Lemoyne, Mary Lane & Carolyn Brzezinski with their Fairy House installation

Acton Garden Club

The members of the Acton Garden Club commemorated their 90th anniversary on September 17, 2024, by gathering to celebrate with a High Tea at the historic Acton Women's Club.

The air was festive with music from the 1930's, tables beautifully set with fall native flower bouquets and porcelain teacups and an amazing assortment of dainty refreshments as members continued their tradition of tea, "poured tea" and celebrated in all in hats and dress reminiscent of the era of the 1930's.



The Acton Garden Club at "High Tea"

This year was notable for the Oval Garden installation at the Town Hall, gift of the Acton Garden Club to commemorate this anniversary, the Annual Plant Sale and as well as ongoing civic beautification and cultivation of the Meeting House Hill Wildflower and daffodil Run Gardens, and Acton Arboretum Herb Garden.



Boxford Village Garden Club Chair Jane Flanagan at the BVGC lower booth display

Clubs at Work, Cont'd



Co-President Colleen Giacomozzi, Floribunda award winner Judy Pooley & Co-President Rosanne Milli

Fairy House Exhibition. In addition, artistically inspired floral arrangements were created by several members for the Annual Petals & Palattes event at the Falmouth Art Center.

Framingham Garden Club

The Framingham Garden Club (FGC) started the new garden club year with a horticultural show and a photography exhibit on September 11, 2024. The horticultural show had a formal



FGC members Marie Giorgetti, Cathy DeNorscia, Debbie Price, Carol Hicks, Pam Marold, and Lianne Manzella

schedule and followed GCFM standards. The photography exhibit had 3 categories: macro, close up and full garden designs. Prior to the photo exhibit, members participated in a workshop that guided use of the smart phone to compose and edit photos.



Emily Hames, Marie Giorgetti, Debbie Price and Lianne Manzella

On September 19, 2024 the FGC had a pop-up booth at the Framingham Farmers Market that sold 100 native plant species (from member gardens) plus nature inspired novelty items. The team interacted with community members and guided them in plant choices. This event was a great way to connect with the community for member recruitment.

Finally, the FGC participated in the first 'Find Your People Fair' in Framingham's Nevins Hall, located in Framingham City Hall, on September 28, 2024. This fair was facilitated by the city and was a public health initiative to combat loneliness. Over 40 groups in the Framingham area were present to let the community know of their existence and share information about their organizations.

Holliston Garden Club



Liz Theiler and Joan White at the Holliston Town Hall

The leaves are changing and the air is cool. Many thanks to Liz Theiler, Joan White and Diane Hayden who recently filled the Town Hall Fountain with flowers and pumpkins for all our town residents to enjoy!

Hull Garden Club

The Hull Garden Club was honored to have Marjorie Dienhart speak at the annual June



GCFM President Marjorie Dienhart & Hull Garden Club President Dr. Roxanne Mihall

luncheon as the club's new president, Dr Roxanne Mihal, was sworn in. The luncheon was held at The Parrot in Hull on June 12th.



Hull Garden Club members Susan Hanna, Marge Sullivan & Sylvia Goodman

On September 14th, members of the HGC attended the Cactus & Succulent Society of Massachusetts annual festival in Norfolk to see inspiring displays of succulents.

Laurelwood Garden Club

The Laurelwood Garden Club held its Annual Meeting on June 24, 2024. Members dressed for this Luau-themed occasion in bright floral outfits. The meeting commenced after some festive Hawaiian music and photo opportunities. Reports were read and officers were elected, and a grand time was had by all.

Clubs at Work, Cont'd



Members of the Laurelwood Garden Club at their Luau-themed Annual Meeting

Lexington Field & Garden Club

On April 19, 2024, the LGC came together on a perfect late summer evening to celebrate 265 days to go before the semi-quincentennial Battle of Lexington. This denotes an important milestone for the garden club members as they prepare the town's many civic gardens and public areas with bulb and flower plantings.



Lexington Field & Garden Club Members at the Countdown Sign in Lexington



Thanks to members of the Lexington Field & Garden Club, the Minuteman Statue of Captain Parker at the head of the Lexington Common in the center of town is planted with the appropriate colors for the upcoming 250th celebrations.

The 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord and the start of the American Revolution will be April 19, 2025.

Norfolk Garden Club

The Garden Club of Norfolk kicked off September by taking a tour of "Old Exit 17 Flower Farm". Farmer Ben Rousseau guided us through the history of this multi-generational



Farmer Ben Rousseau at "Old Exit 17"

family farm. Club members toured the property and gardens, hearing what a day in the life of a cut flower farmer is like.

Northborough Garden Club

The Northborough Garden Club took part in a town-wide community event of Applefest which is held every September. In keeping with the theme - Recycle, Repurpose and Reuse -



Cement leaf

we made cement leaves (messy but fun!) reworked garden tools for either decoration or for actual use in the garden, packaged garlic bulbs and iris rhizomes, and sold hand-crafted reusable quilted "paper towels." Our

club also created and displayed floral arrangements for Art in Bloom featuring artwork from the Northborough Art Guild.



Art in Bloom

Town beautification continued by club members who planted and maintained public areas around Northborough. We are especially proud of the always colorful Memorial Garden in the center of town which honors the memory of deceased members of the club.

America's Hometown Garden Club (Plymouth)

On July 1, 2024, the Evening Garden Club of Plymouth changed its name to *America's Hometown Garden Club*. Throughout the past 22 years, our club was indistinguishable from other garden clubs in our town. To differentiate ourselves, we decided to change our



*Front: Gloria Petersen, Shirley LeRoux
Back: Lois Brandt, Cindy Dunn, Margaret Brickley, Carol Miller Kuzia*

name. In addition to our usual garden club activities, it is especially important to us to contribute to the Plymouth Community with our charitable projects. Over the summer we inducted a new slate of officers at our June Annual Meeting.

Clubs at Work, Cont'd



Shrewsbury Garden Club

Over the summer, Jane Umphry of the Shrewsbury Garden Club presented the prestigious Iris



Jane Umphrey presented the Iris award to David Kurzonkowski who restored this beautiful building on Main Street in Shrewsbury and enhanced the grounds with new shrubbery and flowers



Jane Umphry presented the iris Award to Beth Murray, Debbie Tardy, Deb Lane and Nancy Woron who work tirelessly keeping the grounds at France Gardens looking beautiful.

Award to two residents of Shrewsbury. The Iris Award is a recognition from the Shrewsbury Garden Club of efforts made by town residents who work hard to keep the community looking beautiful. Recipients receive a certificate and a sign which they may display in their garden. Both residents and commercial property owners are eligible to be awarded this prize.

Southbridge Garden Club

The Southbridge Garden Club held several events, programs, and tours throughout the summer. In June, the Club held its bi-annual meeting at a member's house and also visited the Garden at Elm Bank. July featured a program on photographing your garden and a tour of Buttonwood Sunflower Farm.



Arcunus Garden

August featured a program on Landscape Design and a tour of Ender's Island. One of our members delivered a program entitled "A Sense of Wonder: The Natural World of Rachel Carson."

Springfield Garden Club

The Springfield Garden Club had a Fairy Garden Tour over three weekends in May that drew dozens of entries and hundreds of visitors.



Miniature gardens on display

The tour was held at the home of Al Whitehouse and Vana Nespov and the fairy creations were set in their beautiful gardens. It was an explosion of color, creativity and fun!

Sudbury Garden Club

One of the goals of the Sudbury Garden Club Civic Beautification Committee in 2024 was to create a butterfly garden at Sudbury's Heritage Park. Through the planning and design efforts of the Civic Beautification Co-Chair and Master Gardener, Heather Halsey, this goal was achieved with beautiful and stunning results.



A swallowtail caterpillar in the new butterfly garden in Sudbury

This achievement was through the hard work of the garden's club Civic Beautification Committee members. As you can see from the photos, a pollinator is enjoying the native plantings.



The new Butterfly Garden at Sudbury's Heritage Park

Clubs at Work, Cont'd



Waltham Garden Club

The Waltham Garden Club has a new summer tradition, Garden Gatherings. With no general meetings in the summer members created a new casual way to keep in touch by meeting for lemonade and a garden visit. This summer, members Gail Drakos and Richard Laing hosted evening garden gatherings to share firsthand how their green thumb is expressed in their own space. We have incredibly talented and creative members and it was a real treat



Member and past president Gail Drakos with some of her handiwork on display at her July Garden Gathering

to see how members applied those attributes to their own gardens.

In September the Waltham Garden Club again proudly participated in Waltham Day on The Common. Accompanied by other local non-profit organizations, the

event's purpose was to share information about all the city of Waltham



Waltham Garden Club's table at Waltham Day on The Common

has to offer its residents. The day is free of charge to all attendees and The Waltham Garden Club shared packages of free seed collected and packaged by club members.



Free seeds offered to the public at Waltham Day on The Common

Members staffed the club's tables, answering questions, letting folks know where and when the club meets, and sharing colorful temporary tattoos with many of the children which brought lots of smiles. The Waltham community supports our garden club, and this event is a fun way for the club to support the community.

West Newbury Garden Club

The West Newbury Garden Club was pleased to award two \$3,000 scholarships to two young women from West Newbury: Katherine Sutton and Zoe Wegrzyn. Katherine is a student at American University and will spend next

fall in northern Australia at James Cook University where she will study both the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest. Zoe attends the University of New Hampshire. Zoe was a student at the Gulf of Maine Institute works along with the West Newbury Wild and Native Club at the GAR Memorial Library.

June saw the planting of the Town Hall Native Demonstration garden in West Newbury. Built in 1842, the building underwent a major renovation and painting last year with removal of all the founda-



West Newbury Garden Club volunteers installing native plants at the Town Hall

tion plantings. The club faced two challenges in replanting the gardens. First, the club had decided to use only native plants and secondly, the Historical Society required that no plant grow taller than 2'. A design in keeping with the time period was drawn up using only native plants: Prairie Dropseed, Nodding Onion, Purple Prairie Clover, Butterfly Weed, Snowdrops, Stiff Aster, Shrubby St. John's Wart, Hairy Beardtongue, and Pussy Toes.

The club continued its tradition of summer visits to members' gardens. Four gardens were open for a late afternoon/evening garden tour. These summer garden visits provide an opportunity for members to keep in touch as well as to learn from each other.



NEW ENGLAND FALL FLOWER SHOW

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2024

The New England Fall Flower Show was held at The Garden at Elm Bank, home to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, on September 21 and 22, 2024.

Upon entry to the main hall, a row of the most exquisite miniature gardens met the eye. Tiny reproductions of outdoor landscapes had been recreated down to the most excruciating details. The winning entry, "Weezie's Garden", by Cynthia Dineen, featured a tiny treehouse with a footbridge over a reflective pond. (*I learned later this was a reproduction of the children's garden at Elm Bank*).



"Weezie's Garden" by Cynthia Dineen
Noanett Garden Club

In the "Herbs and Homestead" category several striking designs were on display, and the first prize winner (see Page 10) Meghan Harris, had been awarded the prestigious Ruth A. Wallack Award. The judges' comments read, "The exciting combination of contrasting form, texture and color achieves a modern line mass design." Indeed, who would have thought to combine leaves of sansevieria with bamboo, and secure them to a scaffolding-like structure with a small bunch of pink and green flowers in the middle? It was stunning to behold.

The "Harmonious and Haphazard" category was fascinating, described as "reflecting two of the many sides of our weather in Massachusetts." The designs had a front and back, pre-

senting a composition that was thematically linked. It was as if you were looking at comedy / tragedy theatre masks (if you didn't walk around the other side of the arrangement, you missed half the show.) See Page 10.

The "Hale and Hartley" category (*a tip of the hat to the Edwin Hale Lincoln collection of photographs reflecting his passion for flora in nature*) were small arrangements mounted among dish-ware, glassware and other selected props like frames and linens. An interesting opportunity for creativity! Although all the entries were amazing, it was the third-place winner by Austin Seeley that caught my eye, with its bright yellow flowers. And even though the judges thought the placement of components on the left side "disturbed the balance", to me the creativity was first-rate.

The "Hot and Humid" category showed off two different height arrangements of the same colors and flowers with an umbilical cord of sorts that connected them. The winning arrangement by Andrea Little (see Page 2 and 10) was declared "a creative design of outstanding beauty" and "stands above the crowd with its artistic use of color harmonies, components and form" by the judges.

The Gardens at Elm Bank, a 36-acre estate, is the home of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the oldest formally organized horticultural institution in the United States. It has grown in size and been based in different locations since its beginning in 1829, but Elm Bank has been its home since 1996.



Austin Seely's Third Place Winning Design
Sogetsu School of Ikebana

Originally a private residence built in the 17th century, Elm Bank changed hands several times during the 20th century. It served as a seminary, a summer camp, and a technical school before being protected on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, and



Flora, Ceres & Pomona

finally becoming the home of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society who then pledged to bring Elm Bank back to life for generations to come.

The main walkway takes the visitor straight to three enormous Roman statues: Flora, Ceres and Pomona, whose gaze overlooks a beautiful green expanse surrounded by 100-year-old trees. Pathways wander diagonally over the grounds, crisscrossing the many gardens on the property. There is a formal



Trial Garden & Greenhouse

Italian Garden, a Shade Garden, a Dahlia Garden, and a Labyrinth among other hideaways. Naturally concerned with ecology, Elm Bank boasts a Teaching Herb Garden, a Seed to Table Vegetable Garden and a Pollinator Meadow.

A visit to the Gardens at Elm Bank is a must for every garden club, and a visit during the New England Fall Flower show is a special opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

By Karen Brockelbank

More Photos from the New England Fall Flower Show



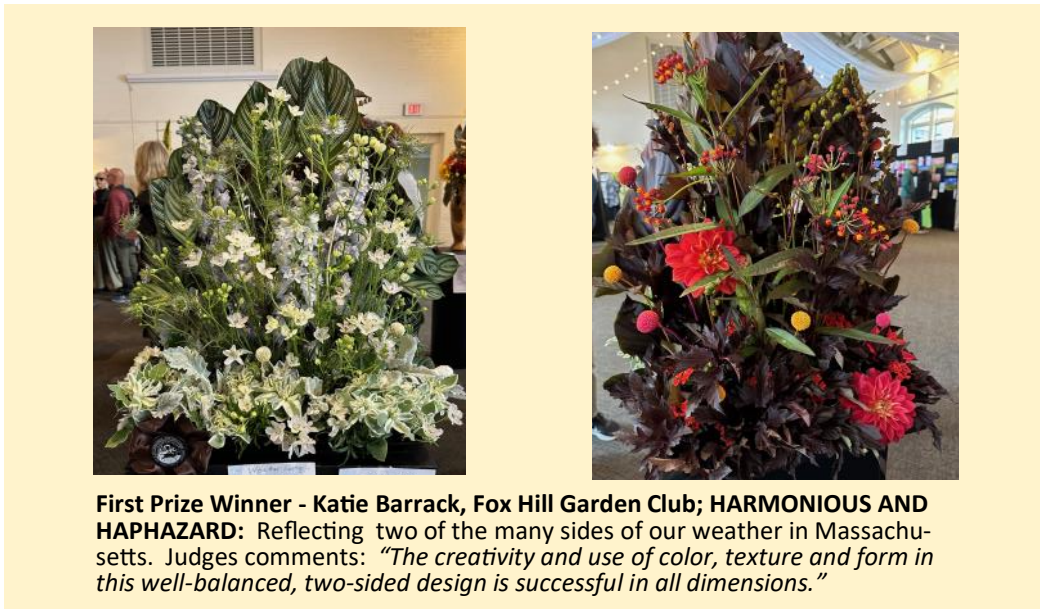
Rita Cutroni's Second-Place winning design in the "Hot and Humid" category. "A strong sense of rhythm is created by the placement of the billy balls..." (Waltham GC, Belmont GC, Sogetsu MA)



Right: Terry Windhorst's First Place arrangement in the "Hale and Hartley" category (Noanett Garden Club)



First Prize Winner, Meghan Harris's arrangement in the "Herbs and Homestead" category was also awarded the prestigious Ruth A. Wallack Award. (Piscataqua Garden Club, Kittery ME)



First Prize Winner - Katie Barrack, Fox Hill Garden Club; HARMONIOUS AND HAPHAZARD: Reflecting two of the many sides of our weather in Massachusetts. Judges comments: "The creativity and use of color, texture and form in this well-balanced, two-sided design is successful in all dimensions."



The Junior Horticulture Tent



Ikebana demonstration



Flower Show Entry 1 Report:

The Topsfield Fair Flower Show, presented by GCFM and the Northern and Northeastern Districts, was held on October 4 – 14, 2024, at the Topsfield Fair Grounds. Because of the ten-day length of this event, two sets of entries were accommodated. “Entry 1” arrangements were displayed from Oct 4-8, while “Entry 2” was displayed from Oct 9-14.

The flower show was located away from the main hall in a room of their own. The theme of this NGC small standard flower show was “Celebrations Around the World”, with four categories under the heading, “Let’s Start the Party!”

The **BASTILLE DAY** category was a bold assemblage design that required the entrant to pose their arrangement with red, white and blue colors on a pedestal with some kind of components. The first prize went to Julianna Kallas, with the Judges’ comments, “*excellent example of ‘found objects’ to create assemblage design*”.



Horticulture entries

The **WINTER SOLSTICE** category was a wistful group that required the entrant to use some kind of material for this “transparency design” category. Contestants were creative, some using netting, with one using the willow translucence of a piece of coral to create the effect, but the winning design went to Joy DiMaggio, for her creation using boxwood, allium, veronica and pachysandra.



*First Prize Winner Julianna Kallas
Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club*

The **MARDI GRAS** entries were not judged, and were for exhibition only. To this reporter’s untrained eye, each one was equally stunning.



*First Prize Winner Joy DiMaggio
Thursday Garden Club of Sudbury*

And finally, the **LUNAR NEW YEAR** category was a Multi-Rhythmic Design won by Kathy Leva for her arrangement featuring croton and scabiosa, judges’ comments “*multiple and masterful rhythms flow throughout which gets the party started!*”

TOPSFIELD FAIR COMPETITION ENTRIES:

Upon entry to the Flower Building on Monday, October 7th, exquisite tableaus created by local landscaping companies met the eye. Tiny ponds with bridges and statues, or a miniature building with a footbridge, table and chairs where the viewer could sit for a minute were visually appealing and a relaxing moment in the otherwise busy atmosphere of the fair.



*First Prize Winner Kathy Leva
Lexington Field & Garden Club*

At the other end of the room were Topsfield Fair competition entries. The walls were lined with wreaths, and shadow box displays from local flower shops.

The first place winner by George M, Roaf featuring everyone’s favorite bad boy, Beetlejuice, was eye catching (see page 12), as was the second place winner by POSY Florals, “*The Real House Dahlias of Essex County.*”



Second Prize Winner POSY Florals

If you’ve never been to the Topsfield Fair it is well worth a visit, and takes place every October in Topsfield, Massachusetts.

By Karen Brockelbank

A Note About Flower Arranging From Western Central & South District Director Vana Nespore

Designing with flowers is **SO MUCH FUN**. It engages our minds, our senses, and our emotions. It reveals our unconscious preferences and beliefs. It allows any of us to create powerful art...with nothing more than the plants we grow on our windowsills and gardens. **AND**, most importantly, it brings joy into our lives and the lives of those we love.

Not artistic? **DON'T NEED TO BE!** The NGC's Flower Show School and Flower Design Classes share the hidden secrets of what makes we humans respond. They show us **WHY** even a simple bouquet can make our hearts sing!



WCS presidents arrange flowers at their Coffee Meeting on September 27

UPCOMING EVENTS

click on [logos](#) to find out more:

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSES





New England Botanic Garden
AT TOWER HILL

FLOWER SHOW OCT 31 - NOV 2

CREATIVE DESIGN WORKSHOPS
OCT 15 NOV 22



More Flower Show Entry Pictures:



Winter Solstice, Joni Pesola, Danvers Garden Club Honorable Mention



Bastille Day, Debbie Stash-Douglass, Danvers Garden Club Honorable Mention



Winter Solstice, Nancy Walke, Danvers Garden Club Second Place



Winter Solstice, Chrissy Locuson, Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club Third Place



TOPSFIELD FAIR ENTRY: Beetlejuice Shadow Box Display, George M. Roaf, Blue-Ribbon Winner



SEED SAVING

Transitions are hard. I have heard that some people are good with change.

Huh!?

Newness always appeals to me – at first. Then the realities and discomfort set in until enough time passes for the new reality to feel familiar. I moved to Massachusetts from Southern California, after being a California girl for most of my life. I was very excited for the move and am thrilled to be here, but the realities of New England winters have been an adjustment.

The first December I lived here, I continued my annual tradition of putting two big pots of Poinsettia flowers on either side of our front door. The front of the house looked so festive and seasonal. The next morning, the plants were total mush, and I realized that Poinsettia plants are not cold-hardy. Now our Poinsettias go inside.

It is a transition time for all of us with the arrival of fall. Hingham has been beautiful and here we have been enjoying cooler, gorgeous weather and we are once again being dazzled by the autumnal colors of the turning leaves. It is the perfect temperature to spend the day in the garden. But alas, this wonderful stage is brief. Soon enough, the breeze will turn to wind and the Nor'easters will set in.



One way I have found to prolong the hopeful happy period of this weather transition is to collect seeds from my garden to start inside during the winter while I am dreaming of and anticipating spring.

Plants, even as they are dying, are biologically programmed to prepare for the future by storing their energy into seeds – and the potential for propagation ahead. When I gather my home-grown seeds, I feel inspired by the promise of beauty to come – warm-again weather and springtime blossoms.



I came across this cartoon on Facebook a while back and it resonated with me. In fact, it became one of my very first posts on social media. Turns out 2020 was tough, wasn't it, with the world shutting down due to Covid. The world is still a mess, maybe even more so now with war and crazy politics. It may feel hard to remain optimistic. But you know what? Those flowers that I grew from seed in 2020 were beautiful and brought me solace and joy at a difficult time.



So, I invite each of you to go out into your garden this week and gather some of your seeds.

We can all work together to make next year beautiful by learning from our plants and placing our energy into next year's potential.

By Dania Matheos



MARIGOLDS



Flowers In Bloom

←





Seed Pods Forming on Plant




Pods I Picked

→



The Prize - Seeds For Next Year's Flowers

Marigolds: Save one seed pod and you can plant hundreds of flowers.

Smaller pods like snapdragons can be harvested more easily by putting a mesh bag over them before cutting the stem.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

with Maria Bartlett

“FLYING” JORO SPIDERS Have Been Seen in Massachusetts

The latest import from Asia arrived in Georgia in 2014 and is slowly spreading across the US. The female has a bright yellow striped body about 1” but her legs can be up to 4” resulting in an overall 8” size. Males are brown and smaller. The webs can be 3’ - 9’ wide with a golden cast and are attached to trees and other structures.



Joro spider

The good news is that these spiders are shy and tend to stay out of our way! They are not aggressive but even if they do bite, their venom is weak and is not of medical concern.

Females lay one cocoon egg sac in the fall containing 400-500 eggs. These are attached to trees, leaves or structures. The eggs hatch

in the spring and, using silk-like strings, the babies can balloon long distances, thus the “flying” activity.

The environmental impact is unclear at this time. The spiders eat whatever insects get caught in their large webs, but it is not clear whether this will seriously impact our native insects.

Should one show up in your yard, it is suggested that you just leave it alone, unless it becomes an infestation inside your home or causes serious annoyance in your yard. If you wish to eliminate the spider, please do not use pesticides but just remove it manually.

For more information, check out these links:

Penn State Extension:

<https://extension.psu.edu/joro-spiders/>

Scientific American:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/millions-of-joro-spiders-are-moving-up-the-east-coast-heres-what-to-expect/>



PBS:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-invasive-joro-spider>

Patch:

<https://patch.com/massachusetts/boston/giant-flying-spiders-have-arrived-massachusetts-report>



Did You Know About Organic Mouse Control?

Fall is the time of year mice start looking for a warm place to overwinter.... your garage, shed or house. Please do not use the commercial poisons set out by most pest control companies: these are anti-coagulants that are killing eagles, foxes, opossums and other wildlife that eat the mice and get sick themselves. Instead, use old-fashioned snap traps baited with peanut butter.

A new product I am trying this year is "mouse throw packs" containing corn gluten/salt pellets. The mice eat the pellets but cannot digest corn gluten so it causes their death. It is not harmful to humans or any other wildlife. I bought mine online.



Her Shirley Farm Landscape Project, Part Ten - Juliet Silveri

A Glorious Party Venue, A Maple Tree Perishes, and a New Diverse Hedge

Spring and summer have come and gone, and both my gardens have exploded due to excessive rain last year. The perennial garden that had been specially designed for me burgeoned with spring bloomers. They included leopard's bane, peony 'festiva maxima', salvia 'may night', geum 'totally tangerine,' penstemon 'midnight masquerade,' delphinium 'bluebird,' gaura 'whirling butterflies,' and clematis 'betty corning.' Let's view the plants in my gardens, in these pictures.

In the bird garden in late April, the Serviceberry trees bloomed as the daffodils were blooming.



In this picture are lambs' ears, pennisetum 'lumen gold', lavender, diervilla, miscanthus, and caryopteris.



In the picture (top next column) yellow 'moonshine,' geranium 'rozarne,' iris ensata 'variegata,' caryopteris 'sunshine blue.'



There are delphinium 'bluebird,' clematis 'betty corning,' and asclepias tuberosa (growing, not yet blooming).



In my allée of 14 trees, one of my Green Mountain sugar maples perished. I called an arborist when it failed to leaf out in spring, to find the reason, then realized a year and a half ago a porcupine had chewed a good portion of the bark on the trunk before I could put a tree protector on it. Although it took the tree almost two years to die, I believe the loss of bark is what killed it. I lost one out of 14, so thus far the allée has held up well. I am planning to replace the tree in the spring.



A transformative backyard venue for a graduation party

As the college graduation party of my twin daughters approached, my garden transformed itself into a wonderland of color, texture, and shape, with some fragrance as well, almost as if it somehow knew a party was coming.

My backyard became an event venue, one that looked better than any I have ever seen. Guests enjoyed the gardens that were a place for them to wander and sit and view the beauty. There are several chairs and tables, and even a couch, in my gardens. And views abound, not only of the gardens, but of everything in the flat wide backyard—of pastoral stone walls, barns, and open lawn, all surrounded by lovely woods.

How interesting that our gardens can transform us, it is not only we who transform them. Mine are transforming me into a hostess who invites guests over for socializing. When I planned these gardens, I did not realize that they would be enjoyed by others, not just by me. As I go on creating, more and more people come and see them. I understand clearly now that I want them to be enjoyed by others, and that I bond with others through my gardens. Friendship, camaraderie, and socializing are brought to me by sharing my gardens.

I watched both young and mature guests walk through the gardens. Little girls ran through them, a young man (my nephew) sat on the couch in them, and my mother walked and sat, supported by my daughter. I realized that these gardens made people happy. My gardens continue to teach me.

My next plan was executed in June: a number of shrubs and trees were planted along the woods' edge on the north side of my property, in a hedge (sometimes called a "bio" hedge or a wild-life hedge). This hedge will help to fight back the bittersweet and other invasives. The area was bush hogged two years back, and is now covered with wood chips. These are the trees and shrubs:

- Green hawthorn trees, 'winter king'
Grows 20-30 feet tall, has white spring flowers and red berries into winter, for the birds
- Hydrangeas 'tardiva'
Grow up to 12 feet tall, blooms white, and doesn't flop!
- Lindera benzoin – northern spicebush
Blooms yellow in spring, fruits if there are male and female varieties in the area
- Ninebark 'raspberry lemonade'
Has bright green/yellow foliage and blooms with small raspberry-colored flowers
- Red twig dogwood shrubs – 'ivory halo'
Green leaves edged in white –from a distance, in a mass, these have a bright alluring glow

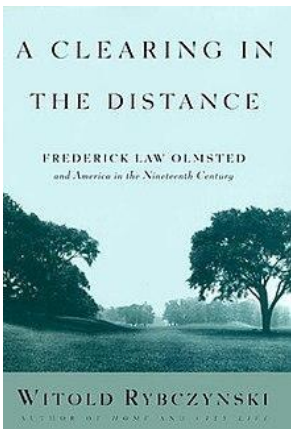
Stay with me on this journey, and you will see spring pictures of these wonderful and diverse trees and shrubs. We have yet to fully explore their many charms.

Book Review

A Clearing in the Distance, by Witold Rybczynski Published by Scribner, 1999



Frederick Law Olmstead is called "The Father of American Landscape Architecture." *A Clearing in the Distance* is a good book about a worthwhile person.



Frederick was born in 1822 into a comfortable family in Hartford, Connecticut. His mother died when he was very young. His father soon remarried and started another family. His early education was mostly

away from home and in a series of rural boarding schools. Olmstead described himself as "active, imaginative, impulsive, enterprising, trustful, curious and heedless."

As a young man, Olmstead did a stint as a sailor, travelling to China; came home and began a life as a farmer first in Connecticut, and then more permanently in Staten Island. When he was 28, he went on a six-month backpacking tour of England to study farming. This trip turned out to be an "awakening" for him where he recognized his abilities and ambitions. On this trip he visited Birkenhead Park and saw his first "People's Park."

When he came home, he began to write articles and books about the land. His focus was on farming, nurseries, water, and drainage systems.

In 1857 Olmstead was selected to be the Director of Central Park. On these 800 acres, he could use his skills and his love of the land, to create a backyard park for the people of New York City. The English architect Calvert Vaux invited Olmstead to partner with him and enter the design competition for the park. This would

be Frederick's first landscape design! They won the competition in 1858.

For the next 40 years, Olmstead worked industriously designing both public and private landscapes throughout the United States. He was a prolific workaholic. Some of his other famous parks are: Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Arnold Arboretum at Harvard, Boston's Back Bay Fens, and the U.S. Capitol grounds. He was a visionary landscape architect! He died in 1903 at the age of 81.

I enjoyed getting to know Frederick Law Olmstead, and his excitement for living and learning. I give this book 5 gold stars.

Sylvia Wahl
Aptucet Garden Club of Bourne



Frederick Law Olmstead 1822-1903
Painting by John Singer Sargent

A Note From The Editor

Thank you for all your submissions during September. I realize it was a fast deadline after the summer issue, but we are on schedule now for regular quarterly issues.

Remember that the *Mayflower* is a way to document your history. It is a permanent record of what Massachusetts garden clubs were doing during a particular moment in time. It's a way write your own history book.

I look forward to seeing your stories and photographs for the Winter Issue.



Karen Brockelbank
gcfmmayflower@gmail.com



SEND IN YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

The *Mayflower* Winter Issue comes out in January, and the deadline for submissions is **December 31.**

Send pictures (with captions please) and stories about newsworthy club events to the Editor at gcfmmayflower@gmail.com.

Remember to keep your stories 50-75 words or less. Provide one or two photos to choose from and get your club published in the paper!

All photographs in this newsletter have been supplied courtesy of each Garden Club submitting the information

CLICKING ON THE AD WILL TAKE YOU TO THE SPEAKER'S WEBSITE / MORE INFO



A Joyful Adventure

- Tales of a Gardener's Journey
- Victory Gardens: Then and Now
- Spiny and Spectacular: A Cactus Chronicle

Unhidden Gems

- Be whisked away to remarkable gardens
- Discover engaging facts and stories about plant life, their gardens history, and surprising exhibits
- Delight in the wellness benefits and supporting research of gardens and green spaces

Savedbythegarden.org



Naturalistic Gardening

New Perennials: A Love story
Not Your Mother's Garden
Reimagined Gardens



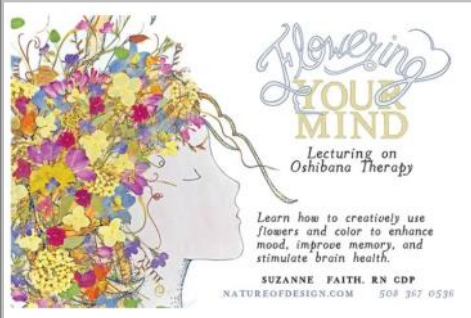
A Walk Through the Garden with Eleanor Roosevelt

Carol Cohen, Historian, Educator and Performer presents a look into the life of The First Lady of the World, Eleanor Roosevelt.

During World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt planted an iconic "Victory Garden" on the White House lawn and encouraged other Americans to do the same.

With a combination of interactive first-person performance and informative power point the audience will learn about Victory Gardens Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Email carolcohen173@gmail.com
Phone (617) 968 2094
Web <https://www.carolcohen.com>



Flowering YOUR MIND

Lecturing on Oshibana Therapy

Learn how to creatively use flowers and color to enhance mood, improve memory, and stimulate brain health.

SUZANNE FAITH, RN CDP
NATUREOFDESIGN.COM 508 397 0538




ILA COX
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT BOTH

HISTORY OF THE TULIP
AND
THE CHRYSANTHEMUMS
JOURNEY

INSPIRED BY A PLAYER'S STORYBY WITH HENNAH OULFIN, BOTH OF THESE PRESENTATIONS ARE THE PERSONAL STORY OF THESE WUNDERBAR BOTANICAL BEAUTIES. THEY ARE VISUALLY DELICIOUS, AN EITHER IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL PRESENTATION. DON'T MISS THESE GARDEN CLASS OR ORGANIZATIONS.

ilacox@comcast.net 978-352-7457



JOAN BUTLER &
JANA MILBOCKER
EnchantedGardensDesign.com

- ❖ The Garden Tourist
- ❖ Birdscaping
- ❖ A Collector's Guide to Hostas
- ❖ Designing Shady Retreats
- ❖ Sunny Perennial Gardens
- ❖ Pots with Pizzazz
- ...and more!

508-479-8287

RoseSolutions
*A Landscape Consulting Company
Specializing in Roses*

Mike & Angelina Chute
Programs, Workshops and
Seminars on Roses

For a list of our programs visit
www.RoseSolutions.net
www.therosejournal.wordpress.com

Authors of *Roses for New England: A Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening & Rose Gardening Season by Season: A Journal for Passionate Gardeners*

Publishers of the e-newsletter
The Northeast Rose Gardener

Lisa Doucett

Let's do
PAINT NIGHT

Paint Night is:

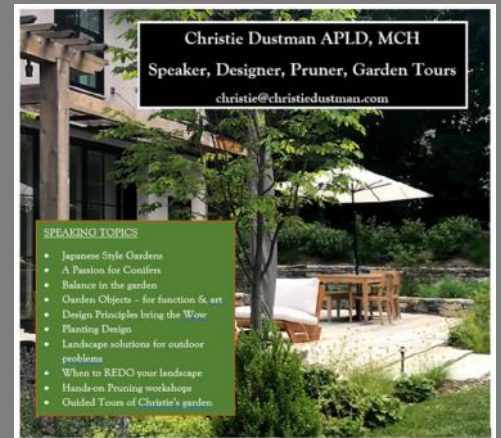
- Fun, interactive
- Economical
- Good for all abilities
- Everyone takes their painting home




Choose your own theme, drawing/painting to copy. Landscapes, flowers, gardens, you decide or I share ideas with you for approval. Individual easels, variety of brushes and paints provided. Easy set-up and clean-up with recyclable products.

The size of the canvas you want for each participant influences expenses for the program though most are inexpensive when bought in multi-packs. Call/text me to discuss.

Call or text Lisa Doucett at 978-978-3177 or email natureartwithlisa@gmail.com



Christie Dustman APLD, MCH
Speaker, Designer, Pruner, Garden Tours
christie@christiedustman.com

SPEAKING TOPICS

- Japanese Style Gardens
- A Passion for Camellias
- Balance in the garden
- Garden Objects - for function & art
- Design Principles bring the Wow
- Planting Design
- Landscape solutions for outdoor problems
- When to REDO your landscape
- Hands-on Pruning workshops
- Guided Tours of Christie's garden




Diane Edgecomb
with harpist
Margot Chamberlain

Please visit our website <https://www.gcfm.org/program-speakers-2024> for full details

CLICKING ON THE AD WILL TAKE YOU TO THE SPEAKER'S WEBSITE / MORE INFO



NATURAL SELECTIONS
DESIGNING NATIVE GARDENS



Fine Gardening with Native Plants Since 2006

Installation & Maintenance | Composting
Organic Practices | Sustainable Design
Customized Workshops, Lectures & Programs

NaturalSelectionsGardens.com


LECTURES

Natural Garden Plants & Best Ecological Practices for:

- A Butterfly Garden — Design for Habitat and Beauty
- Lawn Alternatives — New Plants and Approaches
- The Spring Garden — With Pollinators and Nature in Mind
- The Fall Garden — With Pollinators and Nature in Mind

WORKSHOPS

Design a Mini-Meadow for Your Yard



Tovah Martin

Announcing three new info-rich, light-hearted lectures from my gardens & windowsills to your homes

- Bringing the Outdoors Inside Your Home & Onto your Windowsill
- Issues & Answers: Harnessing Plants to Solve Problems
- Easiest Houseplants Ever, With Style


Plus many other topics
Available for Virtual or Live Presentations

Email: tovah@tovahmartin.com
Website: www.tovahmartin.com

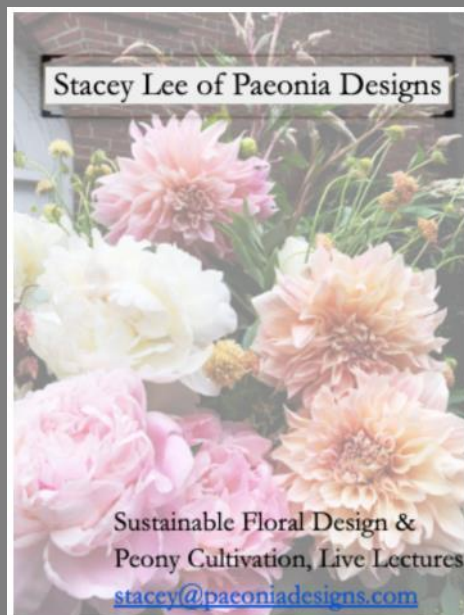


Five reasons to book your lectures with us:

1. Experience: over 100 lectures presented annually
2. Trained, knowledgeable speakers
3. Wide range of topics – Zoom and in person
4. Affordable pricing
5. Full-service approach



Stacey Lee of Peonia Designs



Sustainable Floral Design & Peony Cultivation, Live Lectures

stacey@paconiadesigns.com

Forest Bathing Workshops and Talks

with Nadine Mazzola, certified forest therapy guide & award-winning author

- Experience a forest bathing walk
- Presentations on forest bathing, or
- Designing spaces for forest bathing

Learn more:
nadine.mazzola@gmail.com | nenft.com






Mary B. Hayes
2024 Programs and Workshops



- New: Ikebana-Inspired Arrangements
- New: Tulips Tulips Tulips!
- Create Your Own Cutting Garden
- Green Alternatives to Floral Foam
- Embellished Pumpkins!
- May Day Posies
- Artful Bud Vases

Happy to create a custom program for your club!
Call or text: 978-758-9924

Kathy Leva presents
Fun With Flowers
A Floral Demonstration

Learn how to make simple and elegant designs to impress guests and beautify your home.

Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judge

Kathryn.Leva@gmail.com
(781)266-8454



Slide Lectures on Home Gardening

- "Secret Gardens"
- "New Uses for Annuals"
- "Raised Beds and Beyond"
- "Transforming Personal Space: from Backyard to Garden"
- "A Visit to Les Quatres Vents: Frank Cabot's Quebec Garden"

For more
About my talks, see
www.smmgardens.com

Sally McGuire Muspratt
617-327-2401
smmgardens@gmail.com



Garden Lectures

Lively, informative & inspiring talks
illustrated with stunning professional photography



Joanne Pearson
joanne@joannepearson.com
www.joannepearson.com
508.397.6440

HERB WORKSHOPS & DEMONSTRATIONS

Infusing Your Life with Herbs

- Beyond the Basics: 10 Herbs to Know and Grow
- Keeping It Clean and Green (Natural Cleaning)
- Wicked Weeds: the Dangerous Side of Plants
- The Still Room Garden
- Herbal Tipples
- Plus more...

THE GREEN WOMAN'S GARDEN

Karen O'Brien, 603-239-6733 greenwomangarden@gmail.com



Please visit our website <https://www.gcfm.org/program-speakers-2024> for full details

CLICKING ON THE AD WILL TAKE YOU TO THE SPEAKER'S WEBSITE / MORE INFO

Neal Sanders

Who says horticulture and humor are incompatible? Neal offers 'a husband's point of view' of gardening that address burning questions like 'why it takes three holes to plant one shrub; and 'why the internet is a lousy source of gardening advice'. His talks include 'Gardening Is Murder', 'Gardening Is Painless (and other lies we tell ourselves)' and 'How to Build Your Very Own Hometown National Park!'



The Principal Undergardener

Garden Club Presentations by Kirsten Torkelson

Photographer, KTIImages.net
Presentations (face to face or by Zoom)
• Bridge of Flowers, MA
• Magic Wings (Butterfly Conservatory), MA
• Longwood Gardens, PA
• Birmingham Gardens, AL



Photography Demo or Workshop



Contact Kirsten by email
KirstenT_11@msn.com
Call or Text 508-308-5326

Partnering with nature

The story of a gardener's journey toward an environmentally friendly ornamental garden will help you choose your own way of gardening sustainably. Learn new techniques.

Rebecca Warner, author
The Sustainable-Enough Garden
rebeccawarner472@gmail.com

617-610-3850

**A Series of Garden Lectures
Begonias, Dahlias & More**



Betsy Szymczak

- ✂ Begonias for Any Season
- ✂ Gardening with Dahlias
- ✂ Plant Propagation
- ✂ Pollen, Pollinator, & Plants
- ✂ Flower Shows

szymczakb@gmail.com

(617) 750-1422



"Rave reviews!"

Deborah is knowledgeable, fun, and a great speaker. I have booked speakers each month for the last two years and more people than ever before called or emailed me to rave about Deborah's container talk.



To find out what garden clubs are saying about The Captured Garden visit <http://thecapturedgarden.com/about-us/testimonials/>

781.329.9698



Create a memorable garden with Patterson Webster

Speaker, Visual Artist, Garden Designer

Inspirational talks with information and ideas to help you to make your garden the best it can be.

"An outstanding lecture...a new way to see and think about the world around us."



GLEN VILLA ART GARDEN

Maria von Brincken Garden Design

Award-winning Design and Published Gardens



Zoom Slide Lectures_ Design How-To's to Create Your own Beautiful Gardens

- 1) Pollinating Meadow Gardens: Lay-out & Plants & Combinations
- 2) Color Gardens: Perennials Combinations from Spring to Frost
- 3) Expand Your Bloom with Flowering Shrubs & Trees
- 4) Classic Vertical Gardening: Plants that Flower Up and Around
- 5) Creating Winter Gardens & Beyond using Lay-out Design

To Book Lectures: email MvonBrinckenLGD@gmail.com
www.mariavonbrincken.com

See website for full descriptions & lecture flyer

Please visit our website <https://www.gcfm.org/program-speakers-2024> for full details